

# In Touch

The City's new monthly source for service information



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## *Our City Budget Process . . . Making the most of our tax dollars*







In August 2007, the City Commission finalized the 2008 City Budget. The annual budget is the plan for how money will be spent by the City. A budget proposal is prepared by City staff in a process taking several months. The proposal is then presented to the City Commission in July for their consideration. After several public study sessions, during which the Commission reviewed the budget proposal and accepted citizen comments and requests, the budget was adopted after a formal budget hearing held in August.



The adopted 2008 budgeted expenditures total \$67,408,321. Of this amount, \$34,499,900 is attributable to payroll-related costs. However, authorized full time staffing remains stable. Other significant items include \$8,232,756 for capital outlay and improvements and \$6,791,399 for service on outstanding debt. City property taxes remained nearly the same, at 23.959 mills compared to 23.789 mills for 2007. Property taxes for City purposes are less than 20.5% of the total tax bill. Modest user fee increases will also be implemented for all utilities, emergency medical services and Bicentennial Center and Golf Course operations.

We anticipate that the adopted budget will enable a continuation of the high level of service that the citizens of Salina expect and deserve.

Some specific items of interest in the 2008 budget include:

-  Continued commitment of \$1,000,000 per year of the Special Sales Tax to street maintenance, repair and rehabilitation.
-  Human Services funding, totaling \$120,000 to such programs as Child Abuse Prevention Services, Smart Early Childhood Education, Municipal Band, Skyfire, Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas and the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Response Team.
-  The reconstruction of South Ohio Street from Magnolia to Schilling Road, at a cost of \$3,500,000. Of this cost, \$2,400,000 is to be provided by a grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation Replacement of the Greeley Avenue Bridge.
-  Continuation of the City supplement to public transportation programs in the amount of \$184,000 per year.
-  Continued implementation of the Wayfinding program.
-  Provision of \$50,000 for an exterior facade renovation grant program for the downtown district.

**An informed citizen**



**is a better citizen!**

-OVER-

## WaterLine

An interactive voice payment system

The City of Salina recently announced the implementation of *WaterLine*, an interactive voice payment system.

*WaterLine* will offer easy access to customer's water account information 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. *WaterLine* will reduce the number of telephone calls that are fielded by staff and increase the level of service offered to customers.

Using a touchtone phone, customers will need only their account number to instantly access their water utility account. Information such as current balance and date of last payment can be quickly and easily retrieved. Customers can make payments using their debit/credit card or by using their checking account, as well as make payment arrangements at their convenience.

In addition to account access, *WaterLine* will allow the City to make outbound phone calls to customers regarding their account status to inform them they are behind on their payment. Customers will continue to receive a final notice with a disconnect date. The outbound phone call will replace the blue disconnect notice that is currently delivered to the service address on the disconnect day. All service charges will still apply on delinquent accounts.



*WaterLine* officially became live and available to customers December 10, 2007. Customers will continue to call the same phone number (785) 309-5740 to utilize *WaterLine*, as well as to speak to a customer service representative by pressing zero at anytime.

Drop box locations at all four Dillons stores, as well as the drop box in front of the City-County Building will continue to be available.

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### \$WaterLine \$

#### MENU

Phone: 785-309-5740

Press [1] For account information or to make a payment

Press [2] Schedule a special trash pick up

Press [3] To start, stop or transfer water or trash service

Press [4] For payment history information

Press [5] For billing history information

Press [0] To speak with customer service

Press [\*] For general information about the system